



Department of Justice

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JURY FINDS ORLANDO ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL GUILTY OF FEDERAL FIREARMS AND BODY ARMOR CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court on Tuesday found TROY NOLAN HARKNESS, age 39, of Orlando, Florida, guilty on an indictment charging him with possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon (Count One) and possession of body armor by a violent felon (Count Two). HARKNESS faces a minimum mandatory term of 15 years' up to life imprisonment on the firearm count; he faces an additional term of up to three years' imprisonment for the possession of the body armor. Sentencing is scheduled for July 30, 2007, before the Honorable Patricia C. Fawsett, Chief United States District Judge.

According to the evidence presented at trial, officers from the Orlando Police Department approached HARKNESS at a local motel where he worked as a security guard on October 2, 2006. Harkness was armed with several knives, a pellet gun resembling a semi-automatic pistol, and an electric stun device (taser). Further investigation revealed that Harkness was a convicted felon and unable to possess the taser under state law. After his arrest for the taser, however, officers discovered that HARKNESS was wearing a bullet-proof vest under multiple layers of clothing; he also had concealed a loaded semi-

automatic handgun in his underwear. As HARKNESS previously has been convicted of a violent felony, he is prohibited under federal law from possessing either firearms, ammunition or body armor.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Orange County, the City of Orlando Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Kelly Jo Heiser.